

Terry O'Connell OAM

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Terry O'Connell is an Australian restorative justice pioneer. A 30 year police veteran [NSW Police] and known as the 'cop from Wagga Wagga'. Terry developed the 'restorative conference script' in 1991. He is the recently retired Australian Director for Real Justice, a sister organisation to the International Institute for Restorative Practices [IIRP] based in Bethlehem [PA]. He has provided restorative training to diverse professions including counsellors, psychologists, youth workers, police and correction officers, teachers and social workers.

He is recognised for his innovative use of restorative processes with serious crime. His work has featured in two award winning Australian ABC documentaries: Facing The Demons [2000] & Murder He Wrote [2003]. He has extensive experience in dealing with sexual crimes, including institutional clerical sexual abuse. A strong advocate for explicit restorative practice, Terry's influence has resulted in some 'cutting edge' practice in education, youth work and aged care. Terry strongly believes that restorative justice/practice provides a 'relational foundation' for everything we do, in our personal and professional lives.

Terry was awarded Order of Australia Medal in 2000. He is a Churchill and Paul Harris [Rotary] Fellow. Finalist in NSW Senior Australian of the Year [2016]. He was the 2018 Australia Day Ambassador for Wellington {NSW}. He has a Bachelor of Arts [Social Welfare] and an Honorary Doctorate from Australian Catholic University [2008]. Married to Margaret, he has seven children and eleven grandchildren.

